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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9518  
INFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6678  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RHMCSUU/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 000295

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 10/01/2020  
TAGS PREL, PTER, MOPS, IN, PK  
SUBJECT: COLD START - A MIXTURE OF MYTH AND REALITY

REF: IIR 6 844 0101 10 (COLD START - A DAO PERSPECTIVE)

Classified By: Ambassador Tim Roemer. Reason: 1.4 (b,d).

1. (S/NF) Summary: The Indian Army's "Cold Start Doctrine" is a mixture of myth and reality. It has never been and may never be put to use on  
What It Is and What It Is Not  
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2. (S/NF) As we understand it, Cold Start is an operational plan devised by the Indian Army and designed to make a rapid and limited penetrati

3. (S/NF) In order to avoid the Indian Army's slow and lumbering military mobilization process and preserve the element of surprise in attack,

4. (S/NF) A positive attribute of Cold Start from the Indian perspective is that the short 72-hour time period between decision and attack cov

Prospects for Cold Start  
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5. (S/NF) As noted above, GOI intent to ever actually implement Cold Start is very much an open question. The Cold Start doctrine was announce

6. (S/NF) If the GOI were to implement Cold Start given present Indian military capabilities, it is the collective judgment of the Mission tha

7. (S/NF) Indian leaders no doubt realize that, although Cold Start is designed to punish Pakistan in a limited manner without triggering a nu

Comment  
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8. (S/NF) We think that the November 2008 Pakistan-linked terror attack in Mumbai and its immediate aftermath provide insight into Indian and